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Senate

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Little Sisters of the Poor

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Little Sisters of the Poor in caring for the elderly in Delaware. Since their opening in 1903, the Little Sisters have touched the lives of thousands of people. Sharing their homes and hearts, they have cared for the elderly in the spirit of humble service.

The Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor has aided and given comfort to the impoverished elderly worldwide for over 163 years. This organization, which has spread its loving arms to over 30 countries worldwide, was founded by a group of caring women who were led by Jeanne Jugan. After taking in an elderly blind woman in 1839, Jeanne and two other women purchased a home where the poor could take shelter. Over the years, Jeanne took the place of the elderly women on the streets and began a campaign of soliciting in order to raise funds. By 1879, her ranks had grown to include 2,400 Little Sisters, and her beliefs and thoughtful nature had spread throughout Europe. Although Jeanne Jugan passed away later that year, she succeeded in inspiring and improving the lives of thousands of needy people.

Over the 163 years that the congregation has existed, the Congregation of the Little

Sisters of the Poor has opened 242 homes that presently serve 22,000 residents. Their tireless efforts to bring comfort to those who need a shoulder to lean on shows that the Little Sisters not only represents the values of America but also the unrelenting concern for one's neighbor.

The Little Sisters have faithfully served the people of Delaware for the last century. Opening St. Joseph's Home for the Aged on Fourth and Bancroft in Wilmington in 1903, the Little Sisters became a beloved and well-known part of the community. In 1978, the Jeanne Jugan residence opened in Newark, where the Little Sisters continue their work to this day, providing the highest possible level of care for their residents. The non-denominational home cares for low-income individuals of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The Little Sisters have provided care for over 4,700 people during their time in Delaware. Blessed by the generosity of the community in which they serve, the Sisters continue to work towards their mission of humble service to the elderly among us.

I rise today to commemorate all the work that has been done by the Little Sisters of the Poor in aiding the elderly. What began in

1839 as an effort to gather funds for a poor blind woman in France has become an international community of compassionate individuals who have chosen to give their lives in the attempt to improve the well being of the elderly.